

after firmly securing the last turn on the middle of the sound side, he carries the roller thence under the elbow of the injured arm, and from that point follows the ordinary rout of the third bandage of Dessault. Though, in this view of the mode of application, but a single roller is employed, the several parts may be detached or separately applied when long rollers are not conveniently obtained.

Thus employed, the apparatus of Dessault well deserves to retain its station in the *materia chirurgica*, but it is surprising that neither its inventor nor his successors have pointed out the principal cause of the hostility engendered against it, namely, its employment in those cases to which it is totally unfitted.

ART. IX. *Case of Incomplete Catalepsy.* By AUGUSTUS C. BALDWIN, M.D., of Georgia.

On the 6th of May, 1835, I was called to visit the subject of this case, a boy of about eight years of age, who was stated to be asleep, and whom it was impossible to awake. About twelve months before, I had been called to the same patient in a similar situation, and was informed by his mother that she had sprinkled cold water on his face, and that she had shaken and slapped him, but that no efforts of her's could arouse him from his slumber. He had at the time of my visit a natural appearance; his sleep appeared easy and pleasant; and in fact, from appearances in general and the condition of his pulse, which I carefully examined, had it not been for the circumstance of my having been called on to prescribe, and the statement of his mother, I never should have suspected that anything unusual was the matter. Having attempted in vain to awaken him, and believing that an undue determination of blood to the head was the cause of his malady, I took from his arm a few ounces of blood. As soon as the blood commenced flowing, he struggled, and soon after awoke in tears; his crying, no doubt, arose from his fright at being bled, as he possibly was conscious of what was going on during the whole time, although he was unable to speak or do any thing to prevent it. After this, he appeared as well as usual, nor did I hear any thing more from him until called on again to prescribe for him in May, 1835, when I found him in a similar situation to that in which he had been in the spring of 1834. His pulse being so natural, and his sleep apparently so easy, and thinking his having awoke so suddenly after the letting of blood on the other occasion might have been the result of accident, possibly, from its being near the time for a natural termination of the sleepy

fit, I directed that he should not be disturbed, and gave it as my opinion that he would pass through his drowsy state, without danger, in a few hours. How long this unnatural sleep had lasted no one knew: the boy had gone to bed in good health on the night preceding, but had neglected to get up at his usual hour this morning. A little after seven, A. M., he awoke as if from a refreshing sleep, appeared as well as usual, and went about his ordinary business. On the 9th, 12th, 16th, 19th and 21st days of the same month, he was attacked in the same manner with his sleeping malady, which was allowed to take its own course, and which terminated each day about seven o'clock, A. M., and he went to his accustomed employment as if nothing had happened. On the 22nd, another attack coming on, I determined to observe the case more closely, and to endeavour to do something for the relief of my patient, there being no prospect of the disease leaving him spontaneously. At this time he appeared, as before, to be in the enjoyment of a pleasant slumber; his eyes were closed, and he seemed to be unconscious of every thing which was going on about him; his pulse was 92 in the minute, and a slight flush could be discovered on his cheeks. On raising his hand and letting it go, it remained in the position in which it had been placed for several moments, and then would fall suddenly; the countenance of the patient remaining unchanged during the whole time of the experiment. On separating the eyelids, the eyes were discovered to be in perpetual motion, rolling from side to side, as I have frequently seen in children in our febrile affections, before being attacked with convulsions; but at no time did they appear to fix themselves on any object, nor could any dilatation of the pupils be discovered. Although apparently unconscious of every thing when undisturbed, the patient, nevertheless, must have been partially conscious of what was taking place about him, for he would smile or shed tears when any thing was said or done to please, frighten, or hurt him. Towards the termination of the fit, he moved himself slightly, groaned occasionally, and grated his teeth together several times. After it was over, he said he had a slight pain in the head, but of this he did not complain long, and in a few hours was as cheerful and as well as usual. About an hour before my patient awoke I took a few ounces of blood from his arm, and cupped him on the back of the neck; but, so far as I could discover, the bleeding and cupping were productive of no benefit. He was then held in a sitting posture, and his feet placed in a tub of warm water. In a short time he appeared to the bystanders to be going into convulsions, was hastily laid down, and in a few minutes awoke. In a quarter of an hour after the fit went off, I called him to me, and inquired how he felt. His reply was, that he was well, and, although he had com-

plained, immediately after coming to himself, of a pain in the head, at this time he denied having any uneasiness whatever, and, to my surprise, gave, on being questioned, a minute account of what had been done for him during his sleeping moments, as well as a correct narrative of all that had been said by persons around during the same period. In the course of the day, he was directed to take a gentle cathartic, which was repeated on the 23d and 24th, during which days he continued free from an attack, as he did on the day of the 25th. On the morning of the 26th, some time after sun rise, he was found in one of his sleepy fits, occasionally groaning and crying. In a little time he appeared as if about to awake, and at length, getting up on his hands and feet, he crawled out of the door, yet he was not awake, for his eyes continued closed, and his head would fall first to one side and then to the other, as it was affected by its own gravitation. By degrees he came to himself and went about his usual business. Occasional cathartics were administered up to the 31st inst., on which day he experienced his next attack, and, when found asleep, was pulled and hauled about and had cold water poured upon his head to no purpose, for the paroxysm continued for its usual time and disappeared, as it had always done before, leaving the patient as if nothing had been the matter. From the 1st to the 12th of June my patient escaped entirely, during which time he took an occasional cathartic, and was believed by all to be in a fair way of recovery; but on the last named day he suffered another attack, which lasted, in spite of all that could be suggested, one hour longer than any of those by which it had been preceded. The two succeeding paroxysms came on the 16th and 25th days of the same month, but presented nothing peculiar. At 9 o'clock, P. M. on the 29th of May, another paroxysm came on, and this was the first time in which the disease had made its appearance in the evening. On this occasion I raised the arm of my patient, and, on letting it go, it remained in the position in which I had placed it; but on desiring him to put it down, he let it fall suddenly. This experiment was repeated several times, and always with the same result. On being asked to show his tongue, he took no notice of the request; but, on my opening his mouth, and telling him that his tongue was not far enough out, he endeavoured to push it farther, and partially succeeded. Several observations were made about him, for the purpose of exciting his laughter, at many of which he smiled, but neither in this instance nor at any other did he ever laugh aloud. From his apparent consciousness of every thing which was going on around him, and from his obeying the several commands which I had given him, I concluded, that it was all an imposition which he was practicing upon me and others, and accordingly recom-

mended the use of the switch, which, from my impression at that time, I had no doubt, would, in a few minutes, bring him to himself, and supersede the necessity of any thing else for the future. It was quickly resorted to, but with no better success than the rest of my prescriptions. During its application he cried aloud, but did not open his eyes, nor show the least symptom of returning wakefulness. I was truly sorry that I had been the cause of his suffering so unnecessarily, for, to my mind, it was then evident, that his situation was the affect of disease, and was not assumed for the purpose of deception. Being satisfied in this particular, and still attributing the situation of my patient to a fulness of the blood-vessels of the brain, I opened a vein in his arm, and took half a pint of blood, from which not the least benefit was discoverable; and as I could suggest nothing else which promised to be more successful, I left my patient to sleep off his fit as usual, which he did by seven o'clock, A. M. on the morning following. On the 3d of July, he suffered another attack, which differed from those which had preceded it in this particular only, that he slept with his eyes open.

Depletion, after so long a trial, having been productive of no apparent benefit, I determined to discontinue it, and conjecturing that the disease, possibly, might be of gastric origin, directed as an antacid and tonic, three grs. of the sub. carbonate of ammonia and half a drachm of the tincture of columbo, mixed in a wine-glass of water three or four times a day. Under this treatment the patient had no fit until the 10th inst., having had an intermission of seven days, during which time he had taken his medicine regularly, and had been confined to light suppers. The attack on the 10th was succeeded by others on the 15th, 18th, 20th and 29th of July, after which there was no other until the 10th of September following, and this no doubt was brought on by a hearty supper taken the night before. From that time up to the present, March 6th, 1836, the patient has enjoyed a perfect exemption from all kinds of disease, and is now as fine a looking boy as any in the country.

St. Clair, Burke County, Geo., March, 1836.

ART. X. *Observations in the Neuralgiæ.* By CHAS. C. HILDRETH, M.D.
of Zanesville, Ohio.

Perhaps in no class of diseases, have greater practical improvements been made within the last few years, than in the treatment of